

Izzy's Guide to IA Awesomeness

Your Task in an Econ IA

- Your job is not to summarize an article!
- Instead, your task is to explain the economic theory which is “hiding” in the article.
- You want to fill in the gaps – bring the economic theory to the conversation.
- You also need to evaluate something! This means looking at two sides to an issue.

The Article

- Pick a good article (not just the first one you find). The topic of your commentary should be obvious. It should not be too long (which leaves you with nothing to add) or too short (which gives you nothing to explain and evaluate).
- Read your article closely. Be sure you really understand it!
- Use the article. You should reference it or quote it multiple times. Use the numbers from the article in your commentary (and diagrams).

The CC

- The Course Companion is your friend.
- If the theory or graph you are using is not in the CC, then something is wrong.
- Don't copy the CC word for word!

Criterion A: Diagrams

- This criterion assesses the extent to which the student is able to construct and use diagrams.

Level	Descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	Relevant diagram(s) are included but not explained, or the explanations are incorrect.
2	Relevant, accurate and correctly labelled diagram(s) are included, with a limited explanation.
3	Relevant, accurate and correctly labelled diagram(s) are included, with a full explanation.

Criterion B: Terminology

- This criterion assesses the extent to which the student uses appropriate economic terminology.

Level	Descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	Terminology relevant to the article is included in the commentary.
2	Terminology relevant to the article is used appropriately throughout the commentary.

Criterion C: Application

- This criterion assesses the extent to which the student recognizes, understands and applies economic information in the context of the article.

Level	Descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	Relevant economic concepts and/or theories are applied to the article.
2	Relevant economic concepts and/or theories are applied to the article appropriately throughout the commentary.

Criterion D: Analysis

- This criterion assesses the extent to which the student can explain and develop appropriate economic theories and/or concepts in the context of the article.

Level	Descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	There is limited economic analysis relating to the article.
2	There is appropriate economic analysis relating to the article.
3	There is effective economic analysis relating to the article.

Criterion E: Evaluation

- This criterion assesses the extent to which the student synthesizes his or her analysis in order to make judgments that are supported by reasoned arguments.

Level	Descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	Judgments are made that are unsupported, or supported, by incorrect reasoning.
2	Judgments are made that are supported by limited reasoning.
3	Judgments are made that are supported by appropriate reasoning.
4	Judgments are made that are supported by effective and balanced reasoning.

Helpful Hints

- No titles – “Commentary on...”
- Draw graphs on the paper, or make them on a computer.
- Don’t cite the article or the CC.
- No (or very short) introductions – just dive right in!
- Highlight your article properly (which means rarely) – not every other line, one sentence only, etc.